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HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES, INC.

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28 October 1953

*Clellan S. Ford*

AD No. 23  
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ASTIA FILE COPY

To: Director of Naval Research  
Department of the Navy  
Attention: Code 452  
Washington 25, D.C.

From: Human Relations Area Files, Inc.  
421 Humphrey Street  
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Encl. Final Report on Contract Nonr-439(01)

We are forwarding herewith two copies of the Final Report  
on Contract Nonr-439(01) which was terminated 30 September  
1953.

Very truly yours,

*Clellan S. Ford*

Clellan S. Ford  
Executive Director

CSF:icc  
Encl. (2)

Final Report Contract Nonr-439(01)

30 September 1953

1. The Plan. Subject contract provided for the third year of a proposed five year program to collect and organize basic data on the peoples of Southeast Asia. The informational materials were to be processed and arranged in file form according to the system of the Human Relations Area Files.\* This system provides a new kind of research library which scientists and other research workers have found to save an enormous amount of time in locating information relevant to problems of practical as well as scientific interest. It is based on a comprehensive topical outline which was developed by the cooperative efforts of many scientists over a period of fourteen years; this is known as the "Outline of Cultural Materials." Information scattered through books, articles, and unpublished manuscripts is duplicated by a special process, page by page, all foreign sources being translated into English, and the contents filed topically according to the "Outline." In addition to organized files of textual materials, and to facsimiles of the pages of the source in its original language, this library contains maps, line drawings, and pictures. Since the files provide the basic raw data essential to the theorist, the analyst, the synthesizer and the administrator, it is apparent that the files are amenable to any use that may be envisaged or may come to light in the course of actual or projected contact with the areas and peoples represented.
2. Scope and Organization. Specification of Southeast Asia for coverage under this contract was a part of a coordinated five-year plan of research to provide data on critical areas of Asia and eastern Europe. This was one unit of four; the other three being sponsored by other branches of the government. Each unit was identical in pattern of work, differing only in area, and each provided for the same amount of financial support. The other areas involved were Northeast Asia, the Middle East and East Central Europe.  
The truly complementary and coordinate character of these contracts and the research involved is indicated by the fact that each sponsoring agency received the results of the work for all four areas. The scope of the program, necessary to effective realization of the goals, is made clear by the broad areal coverage specified in the contract titles and by the fact that HRAF undertook the work only after receiving positive verbal assurance that the contracts would be continued over a period of five years.
3. Premature Termination. In the above paragraphs the past tense frequently has had to be used. This is because the contract here reported lapsed after three

\* The Human Relations Area Files is a research organization whose members are the following universities: University of Chicago, University of Colorado, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Hawaii, Indiana University, State University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, University of Oklahoma, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, University of Southern California, University of Utah, University of Washington, and Yale University.

years only, another after two years and a third after one year. Therefore in no instance has the work been completed area-wise or content-wise. In connection with the Southeast Asia contract it was decided between the sponsors and HRAF that initial attention should be given to Indochina.

4. Ethnic Coverage. The materials in the file are organized according to the political and cultural divisions of that region formerly known as French Indochina. Within the larger Indochina file will be found files on the Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, and Cham.

The coverage of literature on the Cambodians, Laotians, and Cham is less extensive than that for the Vietnamese. Far less literature is in existence, and much of it is of doubtful utility. However, basic materials relating to these cultures have been translated, processed, and made available in the file. Plans had been made for additional bibliographical work on other areas of Indochina, Cambodia and Laos, as well as on the various ethnic and cultural minorities in Indochina.

A beginning had been made toward coverage of other areas of Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Indonesia, and the so-called Hill Peoples of Indochina. In regard to Indonesia, the completion of the analysis of the field notes of Raymond Kennedy makes available for the files hitherto unpublished information relevant to Borneo, the Celebes, the Moluccas and the Lesser Sundas.

5. Subject Coverage. Basic sources on history, geography, agriculture, economic development, political and social organization (including French rule and influence), religion, customs and beliefs, and art and architecture of the Vietnamese have been filed or are in process. In addition, a selection of shorter articles relating to this group, mainly from French periodicals, have been translated and analyzed. There are very few topics in the "Outline" which have no information for Vietnam, and these are such highly specialized categories as 405, Weighing, Measuring and Recording Machines, or 445, Service Industries, having to do with the elaboration of retail business selling services rather than goods. Where information could have been garnered concerning a rural and, to a large degree still nonmechanized society considerable material is available, filed under the appropriate numbers--e.g., under such categories as 181, Ethos, 311, Land Use, or 175, Recorded History.

6. Stages of Processing. Of the 159 sources selected for the Indochina file and already assigned source numbers, 77 sources, totalling approximately 60,000 file slips, are completed and filed. The remaining 84 sources are in some stage of processing and will require further work to convert them into logically classified and readily accessible file slips in English. Of the sources in process, approximately 8,000 pages, or 65,500 file slips, remain to be completed. Mention should be made here of the HRAF sponsored painstaking analysis of several thousand catalogued and uncatalogued Japanese sources at Yale and in the Library of Congress which has revealed approximately one thousand important works on Southeast Asia. Among other exceedingly valuable studies is an incomplete five volume series with well over

1,000 pages of information on resources in Indochina, a subject only superficially covered in English and French works on this area.

HRAF has made a carefully controlled estimate of the cost to complete the Indochina file. The object of this study was to provide the sponsor with valid figures for (1) the recovery of otherwise wasted efforts and (2) the reasonable completion of the file. These figures are on file at 421 Humphrey Street, New Haven, Connecticut and may be supplied upon request.

7. Publications. A volume entitled "Vietnamese Ethnographic Papers," reproducing some of the translated materials for general distribution was published by Human Relations Area Files in early 1953. A major publication now completed and to be issued on the second of November is Raymond Kennedy's "Field Notes on Indonesia," volume 1: South Celebes.
8. Utilization. The Southeast Asia File provides for a rapid appraisal of a core of data on Southeast Asia--one of the world's presently critical areas--both in its cultural aspects and as regards such matters as climate and geography. Such materials have been added to the research tools at hand for those whose interests the file may serve, whether those interests be theoretical or immediately practical. Further expansion into new divisions of the area, as well as the processing of additional materials covering the areas already in the file, can contribute to its increasing usefulness to those for whom the lands and peoples of Southeast Asia are of vital concern.